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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Government are giving one-fourth maintenance grant to these maternity and child-welfare centres. Supplementary food articles—most of them gifts from the UNICEF—are distributed by these centres."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" The Hon. Minister was pleased to give information regarding the number of labour cases attended to in child-welfare centres. Have the Government got in their possession information relating to the number of cases that were never brought to such centres and how does the percentage of such cases compare with the total births? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Figures given by me do not include cases brought to the maternity hospitals and private maternity homes. There might be a large number of cases of the kind mentioned by the hon. Member."

SRI C. KANDASWAMY :—" In spite of the fact that only about 35,000 maternity cases have been treated in these centres in rural areas and nearly four times the number in urban areas, the Government are not opening more such centres in the rural areas. Will the Government open more in rural areas? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" We are having at present 430 maternity and child-welfare centres and 54 maternity blocks. It is the responsibility of the local bodies to provide such centres and Government give help whenever necessary."

Bridge across the Cauvery river near Keelayur

* 1054 Q.—SRI M. P. SUBRAMANYAM (on behalf of Sri K. R. Sambandam): Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to construct a bridge across the Cauvery river near Keelayur, Sembanarkoil firka, connecting Kaveripattinam road and Keelayur road in Mayuram taluk, Tanjore district?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" No, Sir.

The Government have however sanctioned the construction of a bridge across the river Cauvery on the Aruppattinatham village road near Melaiyur village in Mayuram taluk to benefit the surrounding villages, including Keelayur."

Increments to Harijan Welfare school teachers in Malabar

* 1055 Q.—SRI E. T. KUNHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(a) whether teachers employed in Labour Welfare schools in Malabar have been granted increments in their scales of pay for the years 1948–1954; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (a) & (b) A statement[a] is laid on the table of the House.

The House will remember that a few days ago there were a number of supplementary questions on this subject and I gave an exhaustive reply. The steps that have been taken up till now are found in the statement laid on the table of the House. Now two clerks have been sanctioned for the purpose and I assure the House that the work relating to the payment of increments will be expedited."

SRI E. T. KUNHAN :—" 1947 നു ശേഷം ഹരിജൻ വെൽഫെയർ സ്കൂളുകളിലെ അദ്ധ്യാപകന്മാർക്ക ഇൻക്രിമെന്റ് കൊടുത്തിട്ടില്ല. അതു കഴിയുന്ന വേഗത്തിൽ കൊടുക്കാൻ നടപടി എടുക്കുമോ ? "

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" I am grateful to the Hon. Minister for taking so many steps to see that the teachers are paid in time. But in spite of all these ' glorious ' steps, the teachers are not paid in time. May I request him to give a categorical assurance in view of the long delay caused in the matter, that increments in their salary will be paid to teachers before 31st March 1955, that is, before the end of the official year? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Sir, I do not claim to have made any glorious attempts. I can only claim that serious attempts have been made and I can only say this much that the Government are attempting to see that the arrears are paid as quickly as possible."

New college for the Nilgiris

* 1056 Q.—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to open new colleges during the next academic year?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, the proposal to open a Second Grade Arts College in the Nilgiris district is under the consideration of the Government."

SRI M. P. SUBRAMANYAM :—" Sir, may I know what is the policy of the Government with regard to starting of new colleges in the State? Will the Government discourage the starting of new colleges in places where there is already concentration of educational institutions? Will they encourage private philanthropists and institutions to start colleges in places where there are no first grade or second-grade colleges at present? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, if any private agency comes forward for the purpose of opening colleges, we would give all the assistance provided under the rules."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, may I know whether this consideration to open a college in the Nilgiris district would fructify at least before the academic year starts? "

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[a] Printed as Appendix III on pages 425 infra.